IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A connected staple comprising:

a number of staple members aligned in parallel; and

a tearable film adhered on one face of the staple members,

wherein the number of staple members are connected by adhering with the tearable film,

the tearable film is structured by laminating a first polymer film and a second polymer film,

the tearable film is provided with unpenetrated holes formed over an entire face of the tearable film,

~~the tearable film is arranged only at a portion of the staple member corresponding to an inner side of a crown portion of a C-shape staple formed from the staple member, and~~

~~the tearable film is adhered to a staple member only at a center portion of the staple member which does not constitute a leg after the staple member is formed~~

the number of staples are wound in a roll-like shape, and

the tearable film is disposed on a side of the staples remote from the center of the roll-like shape.

Claim 2 (Original): The connected staple according to claim 1, wherein an average

opening diameter of the unpenetrated hole is 0.5 through 100 μm and the unpenetrated holes are formed at the tearable film at a density equal to or larger than 1000 pieces/cm^2.

Claim 3 (Original): The connected staple according to claim 1, wherein the unpenetrated hole is structured by a hole penetrated through or not penetrated through the first polymer film.

Claim 4 (Original): The connected staple according to claim 3, wherein the unpenetrated hole is formed by inserting the first polymer film between a pair of rollers structured by a roller formed with a diamond particle at a surface thereof and a roller formed with urethane rubber at a surface thereof by a plurality of times by changing an inserting direction.

Claim 5 (Original): The connected staple according to claim 1, wherein the unpenetrated hole comprises a hole formed by penetrating through the first polymer film and reaching the second polymer film.

Claim 6 (Original): The connected staple according to claim 5, wherein the unpenetrated hole is formed by inserting a laminated film laminated with the first polymer film and the second film to between a pair of rollers structured by a roller formed with a diamond particle at a surface thereof and a roller formed with urethane rubber at a surface thereof by a plurality of times by changing an inserting direction.

Claim 7 (Original): The connected staple according to claim 1, wherein the first polymer film is a film comprising a polymer selected from the groups consisting of polyester, nylon and oriented polypropylene.

Claim 8 (Original): The connected staple according to claim 1, wherein the second polymer film is a thermally melting polymer film.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The connected staple according to claim 1, wherein the staple member is an unformed staple in a straight shape.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (New): A stapler comprising:

a plurality of connected staples aligned in parallel;

a forming mechanism comprising two leg forming portions for forming a staple into a C-shape; and

a driver mechanism for driving a staple formed by the forming mechanism to sheets to be bound,

wherein the plurality of staple members are connected by adhering with a tearable film,

the tearable film is structured by laminating a first polymer film and a second polymer film,

the tearable film is provided with unpenetrated holes formed over an entire face of the tearable film,

the tearable film is disposed so that the tearable film on one of the plurality of staples that is directly opposite the forming mechanism is disposed only between the leg forming portions of the forming mechanism, and

the tearable film is disposed so that the tearable film on one of the plurality of staples that is directly opposite the forming mechanism is disposed only on a surface of the staple opposite the forming mechanism.

Claim 12 (New): The stapler according to claim 11, wherein an average opening diameter of the unpenetrated hole is 0.5 through 100 μm and the unpenetrated holes are formed at the tearable film at a density equal to or larger than 1000 pieces/cm^2.

Claim 13 (New): The stapler according to claim 11, wherein the unpenetrated hole is structured by a hole penetrated through or not penetrated through the first polymer film.

Claim 14 (New): The stapler according to claim 13, wherein the unpenetrated hole is formed by inserting the first polymer film between a pair of rollers structured by a roller formed with a diamond particle at a surface thereof and a roller formed with urethane rubber at a surface thereof by a plurality of times by changing an inserting direction.

Claim 15 (New): The stapler according to claim 11, wherein the unpenetrated hole comprises a hole formed by penetrating through the first polymer film and reaching the second polymer film.

Claim 16 (New): The stapler according to claim 15, wherein the unpenetrated hole is formed by inserting a laminated film laminated with the first polymer film and the second film to between a pair of rollers structured by a roller formed with a diamond particle at a surface thereof and a roller formed with urethane rubber at a surface thereof by a plurality of times by changing an inserting direction.

Claim 17 (New): The stapler according to claim 11, wherein the first polymer film is a film comprising a polymer selected from the groups consisting of polyester, nylon and oriented polypropylene.

Claim 18 (New): The stapler according to claim 11, wherein the second polymer film is a thermally melting polymer film.

Claim 19 (New): The stapler according to claim 11, wherein the staple member is an unformed staple in a straight shape.